into account while making the allocation for the current year.

Expenditure incurred on passenger amenities during the last three years and allocation for the current year is as under :

Year	Rs. in crore
1994-95	73.34
1995-96	87.98
1996-97	87.96
1997-98	80.00

Issuance of Waiting List Tickets

1519. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for getting tickets in Wait List status by passengers in almost all North-East bound trains even on the first day of opening of reservation; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to sort out the problem in the interests of passengers of North-East Region?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) During the peak seasons such as Summer Rush, Pooja Rush and Christmas vacations, reserved accommodation in popular trians is in high demand and gets filled up within a short time. This phenomena is, however, restricted to the peak periods and during the lean period, accommodation remain available for much longer period. The waiting list position on important trains during rush periods is closely monitored and depending on the demand, additional coaches are attached to the extent possible.

[Translation]

Waiting List for Telephones

1520. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of waiting list for telephone connections upto June 30, 1997 in the country, state-wise;

(b) the policy of the Government to provide telephone connections to the people registered in waiting list;

(c) whether the Government are working on any action plan to allot telephone connections to all the people registered in waiting list by 30th June, 1998; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Details of Waiting List, as on 30.6.1997 are given in the attached statement.

(b) to (d) Targets are set for provision of 29 Lakhs of new Telephone Connections in the Country during 1997-98. In many of the States, major portion of the Waiting List as on 31.3.97, will be cleared during 1997-98 by provision of new Telephone Connections and in case of the rest of the States, the Waiting List will be cleared during 1998-99 and there after. Necessary equipment and materials are being arranged to achieve the target.

Statement

Statement to be laid on the table of Lok Sabha vide part (a) of the unstarred question No. 1520 for 31.7.1997.

State-wise waiting list for telephone connections as on 30.6.1997

S.No.	Name of the State	Waiting List
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2,66,604
2.	Assam	28,953
3.	Bihar	62,907
4.	Gujarat (including Dadar, Diu, Daman & Nagar Haveli)	2,97,613
5.	Haryana	98,442
6.	Himachal Pradesh	51,499
7.	J & K	31,561
8.	Karnataka	1,99,049
9.	Kerala (including Lakshadweep U.T)	6,56,973
10.	Madhya Pradesh	60,198
11.	Maharashtra (including Goa and Mumbai)	3,23,511
12.	North-East (including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	14,178
13.	Orissa	40,838
14.	Punjab (including Chandigarh)	2,12,599
15.	Rajasthan	1,73,254
16.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai & Pondicherry U.T.)	4,17,699
17.	Uttar Pradesh	1,53,771
18.	West Bengal (including Sikkim, Andeman & Nicobar Islands & Calcutta)	1,73,943
19.	Delhi	17,086
	Total	32,80,678